Sale of grocery in post offices

1418. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a move to sell grocery and allied items in Post Offices;

(b) if so, will it not affect the main functions of Post Offices and whether this will bring discredit to the image of the Department;

(c) whether this proposed approach is based on business motive or service motive; and

(d) the reaction of employees for this move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Andhra Pradesh Postal Circle has entered into a tie up with M/s Girijan Cooperative Corporation Limited, an undertaking of Government of Andhra Pradesh, to retail the forest produce at 16 select post offices in Hyderabad City Region and Hyderabad Region from 03.12.2007.

(b) to (d) The department of Posts is offering a few selected services besides postal services with an objective to leverage its network support for the work done by M/s Girijan Co-operative Corporation Limited for upliftment of tribal people in the state. The employees of the circle are cooperating for the new initiatives.

Disruption in BPO Industry

1419. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BPO industry is facing blockade threat from undersea sabotage;

(b) whether it is a fact that five undersea cable disturbance have taken place in less than a fortnight causing enormous disturbance to communication; and

(c) if so, whether Government is thinking of alternative mechanism to prevent disruption in BPOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) As per Department of Telecommunication (DOT), one international under-sea cable system near Malaysia and two international under sea cable systems near Egypt broke down in the month of January, 2008.

All three international under-sea cable systems were repaired and Internet Services/ BPO services restored to normal. Considering the techno-commercial viability, various service providers plan for restoration capacity on various under-sea cables to meet such exigencies.